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INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION (IOFC)

Report of the first session of the

COMMITTEE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES IN THE BAY OF BENGAL

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 7-9 December 1981

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION (IOFC)

REPORT

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome 1982

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PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the first session of the IOFC Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal.

Distribution

Participants in the session
Members of the Committee
Other interested nations and
international organizations
FAO Fisheries Department
Fishery Officers in FAO Regional Offices

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ABSTRACT

The final formal report of the first session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC), Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 7 to 9 December 1981 is presented. Major topics were objectives, functions and operational arrangements of the Committee, a review of fishery management and development issues, the state of the fishery resources of the region, progress and problems at national and regional levels, existing and proposed projects/ programmes, monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries, FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) held its first session on 7 - 9 December 1981 at the Mount Lavinia Hotel,Colombo. The session was attended by five member countries of the Committee, by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme and by observers from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the Colombo Plan. A list of participants is given in Appendix A of this report.

2. The session was officially opened by the Honourable Festus Perera, Minister for Fisheries in Sri Lanka. Mr. J.E. Carroz, Director, Fishery Policy and Planning Division, Fisheries Department, FAO, also addressed the Committee at the opening ceremony. Their statements are given in Appendices B and C of this report.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

3. The Committee elected Mr. Anura Weeraratne of Sri Lanka and Mr. M.K. Anwar of Bangladesh as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of this session. It agreed that they would remain in office until the beginning of the second session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The Committee adopted the agenda reproduced in Appendix D. The documents placed before the Committee are listed in Appendix E of this report.

OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

5. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document IOFC:DM/BB/81/4. Delegations noted that the establishment of the Committee by IOFC in May 1980 was part of the implementation of FAO Member Nations' policy regarding both adjustments to the structure of regional fishery bodies under the new regime of the oceans and the decentralization of technical services to promote an effective transfer of technology, increase the self-reliance of developing coastal States and foster cooperation among them. They emphasized that it was necessary to bear these objectives in mind when examining the basic features and characteristics of the Committee.

6. The Committee took note of the fact that it had been entrusted in the Bay of Bengal with the same functions IOFC has with regard to fishery research, management and development on an ocean-wide basis. In view of the comprehensive nature of these terms of reference, it agreed that in considering the various items on the agenda delegations should remain conscious of the need to define a specific plan of action and to determine priorities. Particular emphasis was placed on the observations made by IOFC on the role to be played by the Committee with respect to tuna management and development in its geographic area of competence. Delegations also noted that for the duration of the new UNDP/FAO Project RAS/81/051 the Committee would review the progress achieved and provide any guidance and assistance which may be necessary to the staff of the Project.

7. In replying to questions raised by delegations, the Committee was informed that, as IOFC was only responsible for marine fisheries, inland fisheries were not included in its own terms of reference. All delegations agreed that in their view the Committee should deal with fisheries in marine, brackish and inland waters. The Committee was advised that this recommendation would be forwarded to IOFC for possible action by the Committee on Fisheries and the Council of FAO. Its attention was also invited to the fact that Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand were members of the Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission (IPFC), the terms of reference of which encompassed inland fisheries and which had established working parties on inland fisheries and on inland fisheries planners. It was also informed that IOFC and IPFC would hold joint discussions on their future orientation in the latter part of 1982 and that inland fisheries would be one of the topics for their consideration.

8. The Committee was aware that two of its members were also members of a subregional Committee serving a neighbouring area. It felt that it would be possible to ensure that, depending on availability of resources, their respective programmes could be complementary in waters under the jurisdiction of member countries and that any problem which might arise could be solved by consultation between the two committees.

9. As regards membership, the Committee noted that Burma was the only coastal State in the area that was not yet a member of IOFC and, therefore, not a member of the Committee. Burma, on the other hand, was still a member of IPFC. The Committee agreed that special efforts should be made by its members and by FAO to enlist Burma's participation in its activities. It also agreed that Indonesia should be invited to take part in its activities.

10. The Committee discussed the question of its internal structure bearing in mind the activities of the other subsidiary bodies of IOFC. There was general agreement that until enough experience had been gained, it would be premature to provide for the formal establishment of sub-committees or working parties. Meanwhile, it would be sufficient to request the convening of ad hoc consultations on specific subjects as and when necessary.

11. The Committee considered the question of the administrative arrangements for the comprehensive framework of present programmes and projects in support of its work. In order to ensure the cost effectiveness of the work programme of the Committee it was agreed that these programmes and projects should be located in one place as far as practicable. The delegation of Sri Lanka reiterated the offer to provide host facilities it had made at the sixth session of IOFC (Perth, Australia, February 1980), the ninteenth session of IPFC (Kyoto, Japan, May 1980), the fifth Advisory Committee meeting of the Bay of Bengal Programme (Penang, Malaysia, November 1980) and the Committee on Fisheries (Rome, May 1981). Renewing this offer the Sri Lanka delegation extended it to include any programmes or projects in support of the Committee which it would decide to locate in Sri Lanka. The Committee accepted this offer with appreciation with respect to present programmes. In its view the arrangements would include the operational components of the relevant programmes and projects. In this connection SIDA emphasized that technical assistance staff and funds should not be used to carry out secretariat or related administrative activities. The Committee was informed that this expenditure would be part of FAO's responsibilities towards the Committee.

12. The Committee felt strongly that its Chairman, and possibly the Vice-Chairman, should be associated by FAO in any consultations and negotiations with potential donors willing to strengthen the work of the Committee and to provide regional assistance in support of the fishery sector in its member countries. It considered that this would be appropriate and necessary if the Committee was to play an effective role in the development of fisheries in its area of competence.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

(a) The state of the fishery resources of the region

13. In introducing this item (see documents IOFC:DM/BB/81/5 and IOFC:DM/BB/81/5, Sup.1) the Secretariat referred also to the Report of the Consultation on Stock Assessment for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal (IOFC:DM/BB/81/Inf.8) on which the main paper was based. Reference was made to additional information obtained from fisheries research institutes, statisticians and directorates of fisheries in India (Cochin, Bombay, Calcutta, Visakhapatnam and Madras), the Republic of Maldives (Male) and Sri Lanka (Colombo) during a recent mission.

14. Attention was drawn by the delegation of Sri Lanka to the relative small area of her continental shelf, the lack of coastal upwelling zones and the untrawlability of a large part of the bottom in the deeper areas where other gears than trawls could be applied (traps, longlining, etc.). The knowledge of pelagic stocks was poor, while personnel

and equipment including computers were lacking for better stock assessment. There was an urgent need to find the exact potential of pelagic resources referred to in paragraph 20 (IOFC:DM/BB/81/5) where limits of 87 500 and 135 000 tons are indicated. Much work had been carried out on tunas in Sri Lanka, of which the present production was 27 000 tons. A regional effort was needed to determine migration patterns of this resource, e.g. between the Maldives and Sri Lanka. The shrimp fishery in Sri Lanka with an annual production of 3 000 tons was very attractive and should be incorporated in future studies.

15. The delegation of Bangladesh confirmed that the data base for stock assessment and management was poor in the area and in particular in Bangladesh, where marine resources had not received much attention in the past. Additional bottom trawl surveys should be undertaken to improve on the preliminary estimates of demersal resources, obtained by acoustic methods. Further exploratory fishing was needed for pelagic stocks, including tuna of which catches had been made in the gill nets by a Thai research vessel. Bangladesh would welcome assistance from the Committee and its support unit in this work. A marine fisheries stock assessment cell has recently been established to facilitate the work. Attention was also drawn to those resources not specifically mentioned in the resources paper, viz. squid, oyster and the recommendations made at the Consultation in Chittagong.

16. The delegation of Malaysia considered there was an urgent need for better information on the offshore pelagic resources of the east coast of peninsular Malaysia. Earlier and ongoing survey projects had not yet provided enough data to allow the implementation of large investments in vessels and training. Malaysia's statistical system provided good results, but improvement was always possible and the idea of regional standardization of species groups, etc., was welcomed. An expert was required for technical backup to national effort in stock assessment while additional survey activities would also be welcome.

17. The delegation of Thailand indicated that although regional training courses were useful, training at the national level proved to be even more useful; expertise and equipment from outside were needed.

18. The Committee was informed about the ongoing UNDP funded programme carried out with the R/V DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN and the proposal under consideration by DANIDA for a series of national and regional training courses in stock assessment supported by additional fellowships.

(b) Progress and problems at national and regional levels

19. The subject was introduced on the basis of document IOFC:DM/BB/81/6. It was pointed out that this document complemented the paper on the state of the resources (IOFC:DM/BB/81/5) in that the latter dealt with the problem of the resources and the biological aspects while the document under discussion focussed on the fisheries and the economic and social aspects.

20. The delegation of Sri Lanka noted that on the northwest there had been a decline in catches of the high priced spiny lobsters; measures against taking berried females were not proving effective. Apprehensions were expressed about the possible collapse of the prawn fishery on the northwest coast. Many 38' boats were being built for the purpose of fishing underutilized offshore stocks but the boats were also fishing in the inshore waters in competition with the artisanal fishermen.

21. This kind of conflict between artisanal and larger-scale fishermen was mentioned by other countries as well, including Malaysia and Thailand. In Bangladesh industrial fishing is a recent phenomenon and this type of conflict has not caused problems as yet. Pollution was also raised as a problem that should be considered by managers particularly, as in the case of Thailand, where it can significantly damage mariculture activities.

22. There was general recognition of the tendency for too many vessels to be employed catching too few fish and that some measures needed to be taken to control fishing effort. Malaysia stated that it had severe problems on its west coast with excessive numbers of fishing vessels that resulted from uncontrolled development. It pointed out that the high prices for prawns made it possible for the large number of trawlers to continue fishing even though catches per unit of effort were very low.

23. The critical importance of preventing uncontrolled development and establishing controls before the problems become acute were stressed. It was very difficult to deal with the problems after over-capitalization had taken place. Uncontrolled development, through granting licences to anyone who wanted to fish had led, in Malaysia, to an inequitable distribution of income in that non-fishermen had tended to acquire the licences. In this regard, the delegations of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh pointed out that there was a need to find means for designating fishing activities and defining fishermen. There were differences among the countries in the degree to which non-fishermen can enter fisheries.

24. Overfishing and underemployment problems in the inshore fisheries in the west coast of peninsular Malaysia necessitate the finding of alternative sources of employment. Efforts were being made with the assistance of the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal Programme, to test the technical and economic viability of coastal aquaculture. Fishermen were also resettled in agricultural land schemes. A system of limiting entry was also considered but has presently been deferred due to expected difficulties in implementation.

25. Bangladesh was considering the suggestion by a marine fisheries expert that the effect of existing fleet of trawlers on stocks be closely monitored for three years before granting permission for additional trawlers.

26. The delegate of Maldives noted that the pricing system prevailing in the country was not designed to limit employment in fisheries as increased employment in the sector is an objective of the government. It was noted in this regard that a tax mechanism may reduce employment in a fishery but, at the same time, will produce revenues for a public treasury.

27. The use of exclusive areas for fishing by certain artisanal fishermen is in existence in Sri Lanka. This is done by providing beach seine operators with demarcated areas for their exclusive use. It had been successful to a certain extent but there were still violations. In connection with the settlement of conflicts, Sri Lanka insisted on the necessity for educating the fishermen and for including the fishermen in development of management measures.

28. In general, there was agreement among the delegates on the need to share their experiences in management measures. More particularly, there was agreement that one or more pilot management projects should be started in the region. Any case studies that could clearly demonstrate the positive results of management would be extremely worthwhile, not only in finding suitable techniques but also in convincing politicians of the value of fisheries management. FAO was requested to pursue the idea of pilot management projects and to help in the task of getting funds for the projects.

(c) Existing and proposed projects/programmes

29. The report (document IOFC:DM/BB/81/Inf.6) of the sixth meeting of the Advisory Committee of the SIDA-funded Bay of Bengal Programme for Development of Small-Scale Fisheries (held 1-5 December 1981 in Colombo) was endorsed by the Committee.

30. In the course of the discussions on the FAO field programme in the Bay of Bengal region (document IOFC:DM/BB/81/8), the role of the Committee as a forum for exchange of information about projects and activities in the member countries was emphasized. Accounts of successes and failures would stimulate the discussions about action to be taken up by the Committee. It was also observed that it was essential to make a better assessment of the existing situation as to state of development and relevant efforts being undertaken. Such an

information base for the countries and the region as a whole would be most useful and welcome by bilateral and international cooperation agencies.

31. With regard to future projects and action programmes, it was agreed that transfer of technology was most important and that training, primarily at national level, should receive high priority. Another high priority area would be aquaculture, which was of importance in most of the countries in the region. This subject also offered scope for TCDC between the countries of the region since expertise was available in some of the countries. The activities should be field oriented of small-scale nature: - "seed, feed and training for the fish farmers". Another area which required attention was the cost of energy; and appreciation was expressed for the work of the SIDA-funded Programme in this field. The efficiency of fishing gear need to be monitored so as to avoid, as far as possible, situations of over-fishing. The Bangladesh delegate also stressed the need for continuous stock assessment as a pre-requisite for any planned development.

32. The project document (IOFC:DM/BB/81/9) of the new UNDP-funded support Project RAS/81/051 was endorsed with two amendments. The title was changed to "Marine Fishery Resources Management in the Bay of Bengal" which better reflected the role of the Project. Since expertise in statistics was abundant in the region, it was agreed that the post of a statistician should be deleted and the funds used for consultants and sub-contracts in different disciplines as required, including fisheries management. This would facilitate the use of national consultants and experts under TCDC or cost sharing arrangements thereby utilizing the funds in the best possible way. FAO was requested to forward the documents to UNDP without delay.

33. While all delegations expressed satisfaction about the launching of this Project, it was emphasized that it was only a small contribution in relation to the needs of the area. Much more input would be required to achieve self-reliance in the rational utilization of the EEZ resources which is the ultimate goal. The representative of UNDP stated that no additional input would be available from UNDP in the next two years 1982/83. Therefore, the Committee reiterated its view that FAO, in association with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, as appropriate, should approach other development cooperation agencies to obtain support. This was not only with reference to fishery resources oriented projects but also to other fishery matters. A much more comprehensive support programme was required, if the Committee was to tackle in a meaningful way the many problems and needs within its terms of reference.

34. Following a suggestion by Sri Lanka, the Committee recognized the need for establishing the present Programme in Colombo as soon as possible in the interest of coordination, efficiency and saving of administrative costs. In order to provide timely and adequate host facilities and services FAO was requested to specify the requirements at the earliest possible date. The timing and modalities of the transfer of the SIDA-funded programme agreed on by the host country, Sri Lanka, and the Programme Director, is set out as Appendix F of this report.

MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE OF FISHERIES

35. In introducing this item (see document IOFC:DM/BB/81/10) the Secretariat explained that the Report of the Expert Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Systems for Fisheries Management marked the commencement of another part of FAO's EEZ Programme of assistance to developing coastal States for the development and management of fisheries in the exclusive economic zones, which was made possible by funds from the Government of Norway.

36. One of the major recommendations of the document was that any assistance offered to coastal States must be specific to individual national needs and that FAO, at the minimum, should offer its advice within a regional or sub-regional context.

37. As a result, two regional meetings had been convened; one for the CECAF project area (West African countries) and one for the South China Sea Programme member countries, which had been held in Jakarta from 30 November to 4 December 1981.

38. A description of the practices and experiences of the United Kingdom in fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance was presented. Special emphasis was given to the need for determining the areas of fishing and the extent of fishing effort before equipment is purchased for control and surveillance.

39. Even with the determination of fishing areas and patterns, full coverage was impractical and sampling was the most effective technique. Estimates of numbers of fishing vessels, together with estimated catch data, could give simple estimates of total catches.

40. Types of information gathered from control and surveillance could be used for more than the scientific needs of stock assessment and could include economic and planning needs and the monitoring of the effectiveness of the controls adopted.

41. It was pointed out that as controls were imposed on fishing fleets, provided the fishermen understood the intention of the controls, the degree of non-compliance decreased. Examples of types of controls were given and it was stressed that it was important that regulations over fishing activity must be practical and easily enforceable.

42. The Committee recognized the need to identify those areas as monitoring, control and surveillance that were applicable to regional cooperation. Regional cooperation in this area must be approached cautiously because of the need to respect national sovereignty of coastal States. However, in view of the large capital costs associated with control ships and surveillance aircraft, regional cooperation and sharing of equipment might be the only feasible approach.

43. The suggestion was also made that there was merit in the member nations of the Committee cooperating in enforcement actions against unauthorized fishing vessels.

44. It was suggested that an identification mission could visit those member countries which so wished in order that a programme could be prepared that was acceptable to them. In view of the general lack of information on this subject each member country should first conduct, independently, studies of national problems so that at the next session of the Committee issues ripe for regional cooperation on monitoring, control and surveillance could be identified, fully discussed and a plan of action for regional cooperation drawn up accordingly. It will be helpful if appropriate documents could be prepared and forwarded to the governments concerned well ahead of the visit of the mission so that necessary consultations could be made within the respective governments to formulate their views.

FAO WORLD CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 1983

45. The Committee received general and preliminary information on the proposed FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development the holding of which has been discussed and endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions (October 1979 and May 1981) and by the Conference of FAO at its Twentieth and Twenty-first sessions (November 1979 and 1981). It noted with interest that the Conference had been tentatively scheduled for 1983 and that it would consist of a technical phase to be followed by a policy phase which was expected to be attended by high level decision makers in the fisheries and related sectors.

46. The Committee agreed that a Conference of this type would be both timely and useful. It considered that issues such as principles of management, shared stocks, monitoring, control and surveillance, joint ventures and bilateral agreements, international cooperation, technical and other support to sub-regional committees established by FAO would be obvious subjects for consideration by the Conference.

47. It was suggested that the Conference should take note of other global developments relating to the use of ocean space and the evolving ~~industrial~~ international framework. Particular reference was made to developments emanating from the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

48. The Committee expressed the view that in order to be meaningful, the Conference should strive at adopting a declaration of policy and plan of action for FAO and for governments. The suggestion was made that a draft of such instruments should be circulated to member countries well in advance of the Conference. Bangladesh suggested that this forum of world leaders would be effectively utilized to bring a better awareness of the problems and prospects of fishery development by highlighting the adverse effects on inland fisheries of some agricultural, irrigation, power generation and other development projects.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

49. The observer of Denmark indicated that the discussions over a wide spectrum of fisheries issues during the session would benefit the continued DANIDA cooperation with the member countries. However, he felt that the role of national bilateral programmes was perhaps not adequately covered and suggested it should be included in the Committee's discussions in the future. The Committee fully endorsed the suggestion.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SECOND SESSION

50. The Committee agreed that the second session should be held in January 1983 in conjunction with the seventh meeting of the Advisory Committee of Development for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal. The venue would be determined after consultations between the Chairman and the Director-General of FAO.

51. The delegation from Sri Lanka proposed the holding of inter-sessional biannual review meetings in the initial phase and offered to provide host facilities and meet the local costs of one delegate from each member country for the first meeting. If certain countries found it difficult to send representatives, it was agreed that such countries could be represented by their local diplomatic missions.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

52. This report was adopted on 9 December 1981.

APPENDIX A

List of Delegates and Observers

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE AT ITS FIRST SESSION

Anura Weeraratne (Sri Lanka)

SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE

Lars O. Engvall

APPENDIX B

Address by The Honourable Festus Perera, Minister of Fisheries, Sri Lanka

Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured in being called upon to inaugurate the first session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission's Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal. The setting up of this Committee is an important step in implementing FAO Member Nations' policy in making the structure of regional fishery bodies more meaningful and in decentralizing technical support services. We are very happy that the member countries and FAO have kindly agreed to accept our invitation to hold this inaugural meeting of the Committee in our capital city, Colombo. We are particularly happy to be associated with our very friendly neighbours, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Malaysia and Thailand in the setting up of this new Committee. All these countries, with the exception of the Maldives, have been partners in our sub-regional project, the Bay of Bengal Programme for Small-Scale Fisheries Development, which is supported by SIDA, and have thus established excellent rapport and a close working relationship. On behalf of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka, I extend my most cordial welcome to all of you and I wish that your short stay in Sri Lanka will be both pleasant and fruitful.

The Government of Sri Lanka, headed by His Excellency J.R. Jayawardene, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, aims at making development plans meaningful to the large majority of the people in terms of providing them with the basic necessities of life. In accordance with this objective, the Government assigns a very high priority to the development of the fisheries sector. I am happy to mention that Sri Lanka is one of the few countries in the world which have a separate Ministry for Fisheries. Since we formed the Government late in 1977, we have, over the years, allocated large sums in the annual budget for development of fisheries. These allocations have included significant foreign aid inputs into specific development projects. In 1979, we formulated a Master Plan for fisheries development in Sri Lanka. I believe copies of this plan have been distributed among you. This plan reflects our Government's policies and strategies for development of fisheries. We have made good progress in implementing this plan. I am happy to state that in general targets have been met, sometimes even exceeded. The plan is periodically reviewed, the progress is evaluated and policies and strategies reformulated to meet changing circumstances.

All the countries represented here today at this conference are committed to promoting fisheries development. While there may be certain differences in the nature of the economic problems and the strategies adopted to resolve them, we have much in common. Most of us have problems of unemployment and balance of payments difficulties. In all our countries population growth is high and protein intake low. Fish is the main source of animal protein for the masses. We still depend on the small-scale artisanal fisheries for a greater part of our total production of fish. We have mechanized our fishing fleet in the past 2-3 decades with some degree of success. Now we find that in view of the changing global energy situation we have to re-think our mechanization policy. Under the new regime of the sea, most of us have declared exclusive economic zones. We need to gear ourselves to meet new and unprecedented challenges in this new area coming within our jurisdiction.

While each of us can at the national level try to resolve most of the problems that I have mentioned, there is a lot that we could achieve in partnership with one another. There has been a consensus among the member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations regarding the value of a sub-regional approach to fisheries development and management, especially in regard to natural management areas, such as the Bay of Bengal. I am happy to learn that the decision of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission taken at the sixth session held in February 1980 in Perth is coming

to fruition today. As I understand, the new Committee will be the principal government forum for monitoring and reviewing the development and management programmes and activities in our sub-region.

I note that at this first session, you will be discussing some of the more important problems of fisheries in our sub-region. One of the main constraints to the proper development and management of fisheries has been the inadequacy and the lack of reliable resource data. In my own country, thanks to the devotion of our own band of research scientists and the cooperation and generosity of friendly nations and international organizations, we have been able to gather some knowledge of our fisheries resources. However, there are several gaps to be filled. I believe our national efforts would be greatly strengthened by a cooperative programme to build up knowledge of resources through surveys, improvement of our statistical and data base in fisheries, training of our scientists, etc. Such a programme becomes more important and relevant in the context of the vast areas of the sea over which we now have national jurisdiction. I believe one of the urgent tasks before the Committee is to determine how we could gather more useful and reliable resource data, so that such knowledge can be used for development and management of fisheries in the region. Unless this is done, we will not be able to discharge our added responsibilities and meet the new challenges brought about by the new regime.

Monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries is, I understand, another area which will be the subject of your deliberations during this session. In recent times, poaching has caused much concern to several third world coastal States. This is a problem which has to be resolved very early. I believe a sub-regional body like the Bay of Bengal Committee would be an appropriate body to discuss and resolve these problems, irrespective of whether such problems emanate from within our region or outside. We are glad that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has a programme of providing assistance to the coastal States, to prepare plans for monitoring, control and surveillance of the fisheries. I have no doubt that this type of assistance would be more effective when organized on a sub-regional basis.

I am pleased to note that the Bay of Bengal Committee will be supported by a multi-disciplinary technical support unit, referred to as the "Project for the Promotion of Fisheries Development and Management in the Bay of Bengal". We are very grateful to the UNDP for agreeing to fund this unit, and it is our hope that other international aid organizations represented here today also will extend their support to this unit. On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I am happy to state that we would be prepared to provide host facilities for this unit in Colombo and I am sure that other members of the Committee will offer their maximum support and cooperation to the unit.

I wish the delegates here a productive and rewarding discussion, so that we advance the cause we are jointly working for - that of better development and management of fisheries resources. I also wish you a very pleasant stay in this city, and I do hope some of you can spare the time to see more of our country.

My thanks once more to the distinguished delegates who are attending this meeting, and to FAO which has brought them together.

APPENDIX C

Address by Mr. J.E. Carroz, Director, Fishery Policy and Planning Division, Fisheries Department, FAO

Mr. Minister, distinguished delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like first of all, on behalf of the Director-General of FAO and, if I may, on behalf of the delegates to the first session of the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal, to extend our most sincere thanks to the Government of Sri Lanka for enabling us to hold this meeting in Mount Lavinia. The warm welcome and excellent facilities provided augur well for the session. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Liaison Officer and to all those who contributed to the thorough preparations and are making us feel at ease in this beautiful country.

The first session of the Bay of Bengal Committee is another milestone in the implementation of a policy, strongly supported by the Member Nations and the governing bodies of FAO, of adjusting the structure of the worldwide network of FAO regional fishery commissions and strengthening their technical support. As you know, the objective is to make them more responsive to the new opportunities and requirements of coastal States under the regime of extended national jurisdiction over fisheries. As a first step, it was necessary for the regional fishery commissions to establish sub-regional committees on the basis of natural management areas. By this we mean areas where coastal countries share fish resources or fisheries, have the same or similar problems and opportunities or have other social and economic interests in common.

Apart from this committee, the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission has set up committees of coastal countries in the Gulfs and in the Southwest Indian Ocean. For its part, the Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission has established one for the South China Sea. All these sub-regional committees have already met at least once and the Bay of Bengal Committee is the last one to hold its first session.

I can assume we all agree that the Bay of Bengal is an obvious natural management area. It may suffice to mention some of the reasons. The stocks of several commercially important species are shared between two or more coastal States, which gives a bilateral or multilateral dimension to data collection analysis, stock assessment or resource management requirements. The population growth in the countries of the area is among the highest in the world while the protein intake is among the lowest. As fish is the main source of animal protein, increased supplies would help reduce the protein gap in the diet of the people. Fishery resources, however, are not inexhaustible. Hence the need, throughout the area, to improve the information on available resources and on the socio-economic conditions of the fishing communities. Indeed, national policies on fishery development and management must be related to the resource potential and take into account the human factors. Many of these problems are national, but they are common to several or all member countries of the Committee and should provide a forum to exchange experiences, to harmonize national efforts and to promote the sharing of available expertise. For example, much could be gained by reviewing together control and surveillance problems, the impact of the energy crisis in the fishery sector or the need to avoid or reduce conflicts between artisanal and larger scale fisheries.

This brings me to another aspect of the new FAO policy in fisheries. It would not have been sufficient to create sub-regional committees of coastal States in natural management areas. A concomitant requirement is the decentralization of our technical assistance programmes to promote an effective transfer of technology, increase the self-reliance of developing coastal States and foster cooperation among them.

The basic medium of that decentralization is the provision to each sub-regional committee such as yours, of a technical support unit, that is a locally-based team of experts in various disciplines, living and working in the field, fully familiar with

local conditions and changes. The work of your technical support unit, which, initially, will be more modest than we had anticipated and for which UNDP is providing the core funding, will be one of the important items on your agenda and we are looking forward to hearing your views.

Mr. Minister, distinguished delegates, I do not intend to comment on your agenda. The Chairman and the Secretary will do so later. However, I would like to say this: when reviewing your opportunities, your constraints and your requirements, you may wish to bear in mind important remarks which were made at the time committees like this one were created. It was stated then that in view of their broad functions and of their membership limited to coastal countries - that is to the States directly concerned - the committees would be in the best position to formulate and implement a coherent and harmonized policy for the development and management of fisheries in their respective areas. It was also observed that the committees should play an active role to bridge the gaps and to avoid the risk of duplication of effort, as well as to marshal bilateral and multilateral aid in a coordinated manner.

This will require the combined efforts of all members and of those whose function it is to provide technical or financial assistance to your governments. As far as FAO is concerned, I would like to say that in a special message of our Director-General on the occasion of this session, Mr. Edouard Saouma has given the assurance of his fullest support to your endeavours.

I wish you every success in your work.

APPENDIX D

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
3. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the session
4. Objectives, functions and operational arrangements of the Committee
5. Fishery management and development
   (a) The state of the fishery resources of the region
   (b) Progress and problems at national and regional levels
   (c) Existing and proposed projects/programmes
      (i) Development of small-scale fisheries (GCP/RAS/040-SWE)
      (ii) Other existing regional and interregional projects/programmes
      (iii) Proposed projects/programmes
6. Monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries
7. FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, 1983
8. Any other matters
9. Election of officers
10. Date and place of the second session
11. Adoption of the report

APPENDIX E

List of Documents

IOFC:DM/BB/81/1	Provisional agenda
2	Annotated provisional agenda
3	Provisional timetable
4	Objectives, functions and operational arrangements of the Committee
5	Review of the state of the fishery resources of the Bay of Bengal region
6	Fisheries issues of regional relevance
7	Statements from the countries on progress and problems at national and regional level in fishery management and development
8	Review of the FAO field programme in the Bay of Bengal region
9	Draft project document for the promotion of fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal (RAS/81/052)
10	Report of the Expert Consultation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Systems for Fisheries Management, Rome, 27-30 April 1981
IOFC:DM/BB/81/Inf.1	List of documents
2	Information for participants
3	List of delegates and observers
4	Statutes and rules of procedure of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC)
5	Report of the sixth session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC), Perth, Australia, 25-29 February 1980
6	Report of the sixth meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Bay of Bengal Programme, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1-5 December 1981
7	Draft final report on the promotion of small-scale fisheries in south Asia (RAS/77/044)
8	Report of the Consultation on Stock Assessment for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal, Chittagong, Bangladesh, 16-21 June 1980
9	Marine fisheries in the new era of national jurisdiction, state of food and agriculture, FAO 1980

APPENDIX F

Timing and modalities of the transfer of the SIDA/FAO project for Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal to Colombo in connection with the establishment of the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal

A. Facilities to be provided by the Ministry of Fisheries, Sri Lanka

		1982 1st Qrt	1982 2nd Qrt	1982 3rd Qrt
1.	Office for Programme management, fishing gear and methods and aquaculture	x		
2.	Library, stores, car park, etc.	x		
3.	Office for all other functions		x	
4.	Boatyard for fishing craft technology		x	

B. Transfer of staff functions

	Functions	1982 1st Qrt	1982 2nd Qrt	1982 3rd Qrt	Remarks
1.	Programme Director	x			
2.	Development Adviser		x		
3.	Fishing Technologist	x			
4.	Fishing Craft Specialist		x		
5.	Fishing Craft Specialist (Consultant)				Remains in Madras till termination of contract September 1982
6.	Aquaculturist (to be recruited)	x			The incumbent will take up duties in Colombo on recruitment
7.	Sociologist (Women Officer)			x	
8.	Fishery Biologist (Ass. Expert)	x			This officer will be attached to the UNDP project (RAS/81/051)
9.	Socio-Economist (Ass. Expert)			x	Remain in Madras until termination of contract, October 1982
10.	Economist (Ass. Expert)			x	
11.	New Experts				New international staff will take up duties in Colombo on recruitment

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